

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 11

1. SYRIAN MEDIA LED WITH RIYADH CONFERENCE BETWEEN
CONFRONTATION STATES AND THEIR FINANCIAL BACKERS.
NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED: "KHADDAM " "THE CONFERENCE WAS
SUCCESSFUL.; AL-FAYSAL (SAUDI FONMIN) "THE BATTLE IS ONE, AND
THE MEANS TO VICTORY IS ARAB SOLIDARITY." ACCOMPANYING
ARTICLES REPORTED THAT NUMBER OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMEN-
DATIONS HAD BEEN REACHED AT CONFERENCE FOR REFERRAL TO
CONCERNED HEADS OF STATE FOR THEIR APPROVAL. PAPERS
REPORTED BADRAN'S STATEMENTS THAT JAN. 15 MEETING IN
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CAIRO WOULD WORK ON IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTIONS. AL-BAATH
EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A JUST PEACE IS BETWEEN THE RIGHT OF
FORCE AND FORCE OF RIGHT" DEALT WITH IMPORTANCE OF ARAB
SOLIDARITY IN BATTLE WITH ISRAEL. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT, COLUMNIST MADE POINT
THAT ONLY SUPPORT FROM ARAB ECONOMIC AND MILITARY "REAR-
GUARD" (READ ARAB OIL STATES) CAN ULTIMATELY IMPOSE JUST

PEACE. EDITORIAL STATED THAT FORCE OF RIGHT INSUFFICIENT TO REALIZE JUST SETTLEMENT AND THAT RIGHT TO USE FORCE CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVELY APPLIED IF ARAB SOLIDARITY EXISTS. COMMENT: FANFARE ACCOMPANYING KHADDAM'S RETURN FROM RIYADH INDICATES THAT SYRIA PROJECTING SOME SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF MEETINGS AND HOPES TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING AT CAIRO ARAB FONMINS' CONFERENCE LATER IN WEEK.

2. ANOTHER AL-BAATH EDITORIAL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT INCOMING U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL REALIZE DANGER IN "ENCOURAGING ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE" AT TIME WHEN ARABS ARE DETERMINED "TO SETTLE MATTERS." COLUMNIST EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SUPER-POWERS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BADLY WANT ME PEACE AND STATED THAT SUCH A PEACE MUST NOT BE POSTPONED. EDITORIAL CALLED GENEVA MEPC WORLD IMPERATIVE AND "THE LAST POSSIBILITY FOR PEACE." COLUMNIST CONTRASTED U.S. TALK IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT PEACE WITH CONCRETE MILITARY AID IN FORM OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO ISRAEL AND ENDED BY NOTING THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD NOT YET FORMED ITS POLICY TOWARD REGION.

3. MEDIA REPORTED WITHOUT ELABORATION THAT TWO PLO BODIES WOULD MEET JAN. 11 IN DAMASCUS, PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR PNC IN MORNING AND PALESTINIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL IN EVENING "TO REVIEW NAMES OF MEMBERS OF NEW PNC."

4. PAPERS ALSO REPORTED INTERVIEW KING HUSSEIN GAVE KUWAITI WEEKLY AL-MAJALIS IN WHICH HE COMMENTED ON POSSIBLE FOR-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATION OF QUADRIpartite ARAB COMMAND INCLUDING EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN, AND THE PLO. HUSSEIN QUOTED AS SAYING, "NO MEASURES OR CONTACTS TRANSCENDING WHAT CURRENTLY EXISTS BETWEEN US AND SYRIA HAVE BEEN MADE. WE ARE NOW CONCEN-TRATING ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SYRIA." HOWEVER, IN ANOTHER ARTICLE JORDANIAN PRIMIN BADRAN QUOTED TELLING DAILY NEWSPAPER RIYADH THAT COMMITTEES ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF JORDAN'S JOINING SYRO-EGYPTIAN COMMAND AND RESULT WILL BE KNOWN AFTER KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO CAIRO ON THURSDAY. COLUMN IN TISHRIIN, IN MAKING POINT ABOUT NEED FOR SUPPORT FROM ARAB STATES NOT DIRECTLY CONFRONTING ISRAEL, NOTED IMPORTANT ROLE SYRIA, EGYPT, AND JORDAN PLAY ON BEHALF OF ALL ARAB STATES, CONSPICUOUSLY OMITTING ANY MENTION OF PLO.
MURPHY

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